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Sons of the American Revolution.
Fort Washington.
Programme November sixteenth
1901.

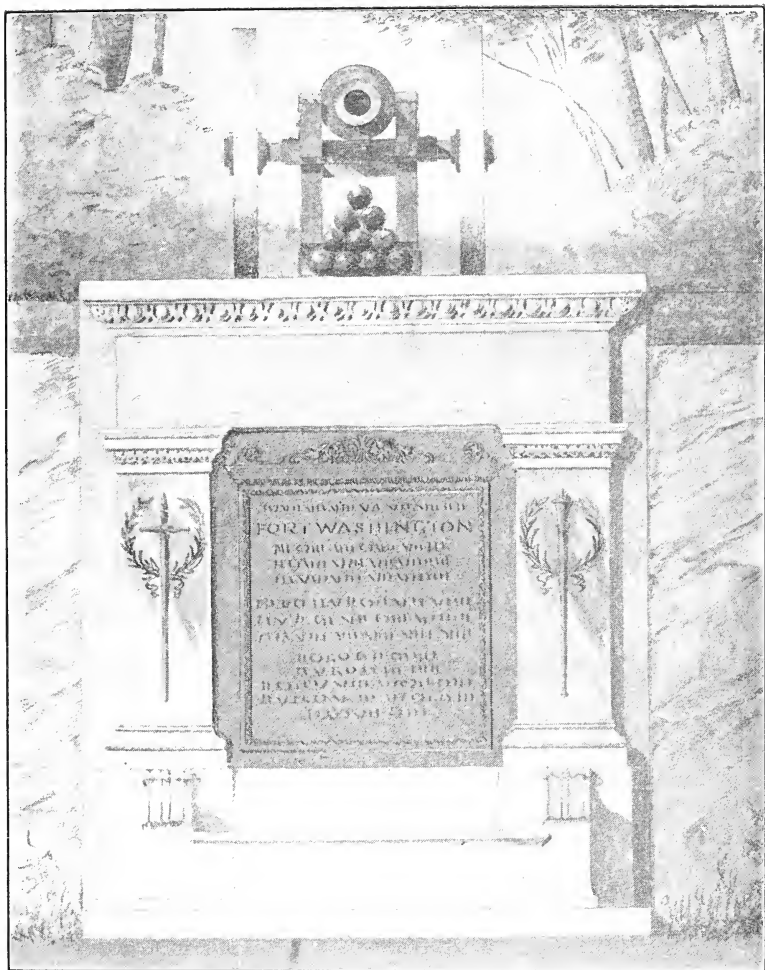




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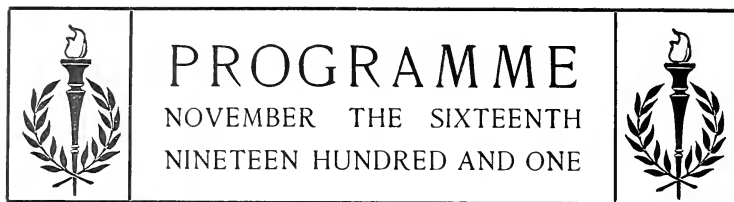


THIS MEMORIAL MARKS THE SITE OF
FORT WASHINGTON

CONSTRUCTED BY THE CONTINENTAL TROOPS IN THE SUMMER OF 1776
 TAKEN BY THE BRITISH AFTER A HEROIC DEFENSE, NOVEMBER 10, 1776
 REPOSSESSED BY THE AMERICANS UPON
 THEIR TRIUMPHAL ENTRY INTO THE CITY OF NEW YORK, NOVEMBER 25, 1783

ERECTED THROUGH THE GENEROSITY OF
JAMES GORDON BENNETT
 BY THE EMPIRE STATE SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
 NOVEMBER 10, 1901

SITE REGISTERED BY THE AMERICAN SCENIC AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION SOCIETY



AT 11 O'CLOCK A. M.

MEMORIAL CHURCH SERVICE

In the HOLYROOD PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH, at Broadway (Kingsbridge Road) and 181st Street, in memory of those who fell in the Battle of Fort Washington, the REV. C. MORTON MURRAY and visiting clergy officiating.

During the day there will be an exhibition of military relics in the Guild Room of the Church.

AT 1.30 O'CLOCK P. M.

PROCESSION

Forming at Amsterdam Avenue and 187th Street, moves to Fort Washington in the following order:

PLATOON OF POLICE

DR. E. V. D. GAZZAM, MARSHAL AND AIDES

EIGHTH UNITED STATES ARTILLERY BAND

THREE COMPANIES UNITED STATES COAST ARTILLERY

WENDEL'S BATTERY, N. G. N. Y.

COLORS OF THE EMPIRE STATE SOCIETY, S. A. R.

COLOR GUARD: DETAIL FROM WASHINGTON CONTINENTAL GUARD OF NEW YORK

FIELD AND STAFF OFFICERS OF FIRST REGIMENT OF MINUTEMEN, OF WASHINGTON, D. C.

MEMBERS OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

BAND OF THE NEW YORK JUVENILE ASYLUM

BOYS OF THE DEAF AND DUMB ASYLUM

At Kingsbridge Road the line of march will cover a portion of the route taken by the American Army when it repossessed Fort Washington in 1783.

AT 2 O'CLOCK P. M.

DEDICATION OF MEMORIAL

Upon arrival of procession at Fort Washington

RAISING OF UNITED STATES FLAG IN FORT
CHRISTOPHER R. FORBES

ARTILLERY SALUTE
CAPT. LOUIS WENDEL'S BATTERY, N. G. N. Y.

MUSIC: "STAR SPANGLED BANNER"
EIGHTH UNITED STATES ARTILLERY BAND

DEDICATORY PRAYER
REV. JESSE LYMAN HURLBUT, D.D.
Chaplain Empire State Society, S. A. R.

AT 2.15 O'CLOCK P. M. IN THE TENT

MUSIC: "AMERICA"
EIGHTH UNITED STATES ARTILLERY BAND

ADDRESS
WALTER SETH LOGAN
President Empire State Society and President-General, Sons of the American Revolution

ADDRESS
NAME TO BE ANNOUNCED
Representing JAMES GORDON BENNETT

ADDRESS
HON. ANDREW H. GREEN
President American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society

MUSIC
NEW YORK JUVENILE ASYLUM BAND

ADDRESS
MAJ. GEN. JOHN R. BROOKE, U. S. A.
Commanding Department of the East

ADDRESS
HON. AZARIAH HALL SAWYER
Historian Empire State Society, S. A. R.

MUSIC
NEW YORK JUVENILE ASYLUM BAND

POEM
DR. P. BRYNBERG PORTER

ADDRESS
HON. HIRAM ROSWELL STEELE
Member of Board of Management, S. A. R.

At the close of the literary exercises there will be a reunion of descendants of the defenders of Fort Washington.

The Battle of Fort Washington

ON the night of November 4-5, 1776, a few days after the battle of White Plains, the British army, which had been camped over against the Americans on the Heights of New Castle, made a sudden and mysterious retrograde movement toward New York. Washington could not fathom it. He did not know what we know to-day, that on November 2d, Col. Robert Magaw's adjutant, William Demont, had slipped out of Fort Washington and betrayed to the enemy the complete plans of the Fort—an act of perfidy which, because it was successful, inflicted a greater disaster upon the American cause than the later treason of Arnold.

Although not understanding the designs of Howe, but reasoning from other facts, Washington believed that no good could be subserved by the retention of Fort Washington, which had failed to prevent the passage of the enemy's vessels up the Hudson. On November 8th, therefore, he revoked the orders which he had given to Magaw to defend the Fort to the last, and advised Greene to withdraw the garrison and stores to New Jersey. He left this course, however, discretionary with Greene, who was on the ground; and, by the "officious interference of Congress and a venial error of judgment on the part of Greene" (says Fiske) the Fort was retained.

On November 15th, the day before the battle, Howe, having disposed his forces to his satisfaction, summoned Magaw to surrender, intimating that in case of refusal the Americans might expect no quarter. Whereupon Magaw sent back this superb message:

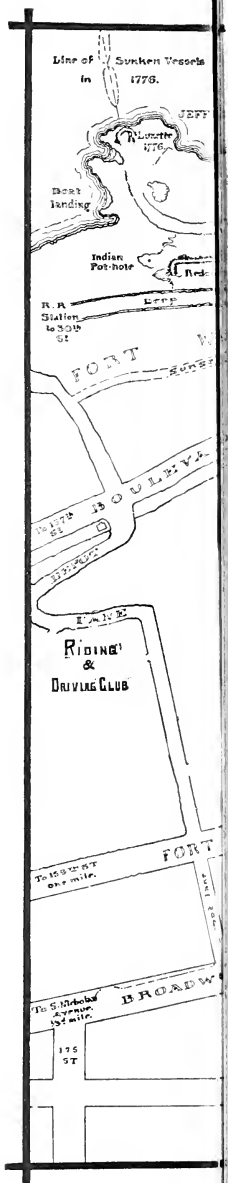
" . . . ACTUATED BY THE MOST GLORIOUS CAUSE THAT MANKIND EVER FOUGHT IN, I AM DETERMINED TO DEFEND THIS POST TO THE LAST EXTREMITY."

That was a brave soldier's reply, although Greene should have saved him the necessity of making it. The courage that dictated it is amazing, in view of the physical and moral situation at that time. Here were only 3,000 inexperienced Americans attempting to defend all of Manhattan Island north of 145th Street,* against 9,000 trained and fully equipped foreign troops. The circuit of the field of action was about 10 miles, an average of one American soldier to about every 18 feet. The King of Prussia, in his History of the Seven Years' War, estimated that 10,000 men were inadequate to defend the city of Berlin, with about the same circuit.

With these odds against them, there had been nothing in the history of the Revolution since Lexington to warrant the belief that the Fort could be held. Bunker Hill had recorded an American retreat; the American army in Canada was shattered; Long Island had nearly cost Washington his army; Harlem Heights was a *succes d'estime*; White Plains was a drawn game. What then, but the glorious inspiration of a righteous cause, expressed by

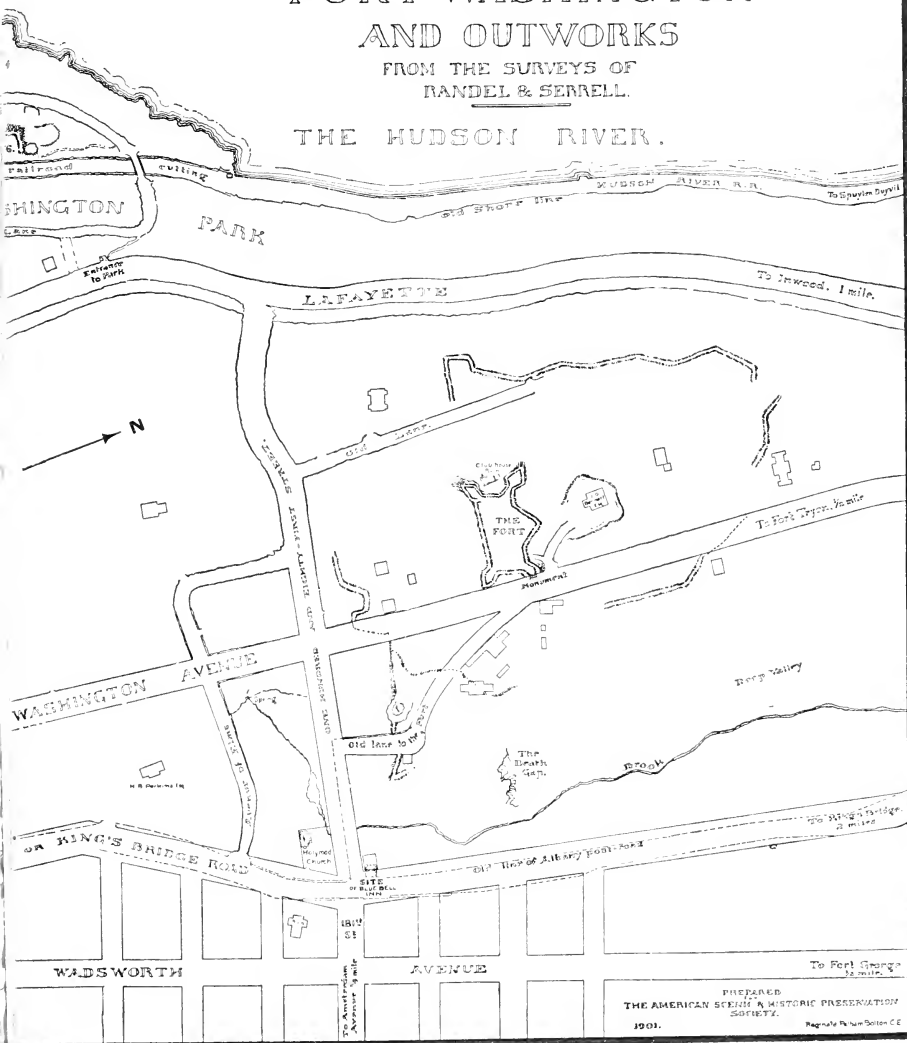
The citadel of the American defenses, now marked by the efforts of the Empire State Society through the generosity of James Gordon Bennett, Esq., was a pentagonal bastioned earthwork, situa

*For the sake of brevity, many localities are indicated by modern designations which, of course, were not then known



MOCK.

THE HUDSON RIVER.



ed for the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society by Reginald Pelham Bolton, C.E.

gaw in his message to Howe, can account for the superb defense of Fort Washington? The Sons of the American Revolution and the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society, on the highest elevation of Manhattan Island (271.4 feet) on the western side of Fort Washington

Avenue in the line of 183d Street. The Fort mounted 32 pieces of heavy cannon, and its out-works eleven more. The chief outer defenses were: A line of breastworks across the high ground between 145th and 147th Streets; a second line between 153d and 155th Streets; a third incipient line in the latitude of the Jumel Mansion (Washington's Headquarters), at 161st Street; a strong redoubt on Jeffrey's Hook southwest of the Fort; a redoubt and breastworks at Fort Tryon, half a mile north of the Fort; a fortified position on Laurel Hill, now called Fort George, at the northern terminus of Amsterdam Avenue; a four-gun redoubt down below Laurel Hill to the northward; and various other minor defenses.

Magaw commanded at Fort Washington; Rawlings and Williams were at Fort Tryon with the Maryland and Virginia riflemen; Baxter and Swope were at Laurel Hill with militia of the flying camp, and Cadwalader was on the south with his Pennsylvania Rangers.

About 10 a. m., November 16th, the enemy began the assault. The attack was made on all sides—on the north by Knyphausen and Rahl with their Hessians and Waldeckers; on the east at Laurel Hill by Matthews and Cornwallis with Light Infantry, Guards and Grenadiers, and near 155th Street by Stirling with his Highlanders; on the south by Percy and Howe with Red-coats and Hessians; and on the west by the British frigate "Pearl" on the Hudson.

On the south, Cadwalader, finding himself between the fires of Stirling and Percy, made a dogged retreat to the Fort, halting and firing, and strewing his path chiefly with Hessians. On the east, under cover of a furious bombardment, from University Heights, the British took Laurel Hill, where the brave Baxter fell. On the north, Rawlings made the most desperate resistance of the day against the giant Hessians, whose bones can be distinguished to-day by their extraordinary size. Here there was great slaughter and men fell like leaves from the autumn trees. Rawlings and Williams were both wounded. There were not enough men to man the breastworks and guns. In this crisis, American womanhood sprang to the rescue in the person of Margaret Corbin, who worked the gun at the trail of which her dead husband lay, until she, too, fell, severely but not mortally wounded.

But the torrent could not be stemmed, and the tumultuous whirlpool of battle swept nearer the Fort. With the Americans, however, it was still a fight, not a flight;—for Magaw, looking down the slopes, could see the contending parties mingled in a desperate hand-to-hand struggle, shooting, thrusting, striking and stabbing. The air was filled with the thunder of cannon, the roar of musketry, the ringing of steel, the sickening crunch of descending rifle butts, the shouts and curses of combatants, the shrieks of the wounded and the groans of the dying. One hundred and thirty-two corpses strewed the ground, 78 of them British; and 302 men, of whom 380 were British, either lay upon the hillside or staggered with gaping wounds.

Magaw had kept his word; he had fought "to the last extremity," and further resistance would have converted Fort Washington into a slaughter pen. He therefore yielded to a new summons, from Knyphausen, and surrendered. And Washington, who had almost been captured earlier in the day near the Jumel Mansion, now standing with streaming eyes on the heights of the Palisades, saw the American flag lowered and the British ascend in its place over Fort Washington. The whole American command, about 3,000 in number, became prisoners of war, and very few of them ever issued from the prisons into which they were cast.

Manhattan Island remained in possession of the British 7 years and 9 days, during which American Independence was achieved by the same indomitable bravery that was displayed at Fort Washington, guided by the acquired wisdom of greater experience.

At length came another day in 1783, when a gay and triumphant procession crossed the King's Bridge and, with inspiring music, came marching down the Kingsbridge Road. The uniforms were blue, buff and white; the flags were red-and-white striped, with a blue canton containing 13 white stars. It halted for a few days at McGowan's Pass, in Central Park, while the gradual withdrawal of the King's troops was taking place; and then, on the 25th, proceeded to the city where the formalities of evacuation were completed. On that day the last British soldier left New York, and once more the American flag floated unchallenged from the Island's loftiest height—Mount Washington.

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